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MARTLET

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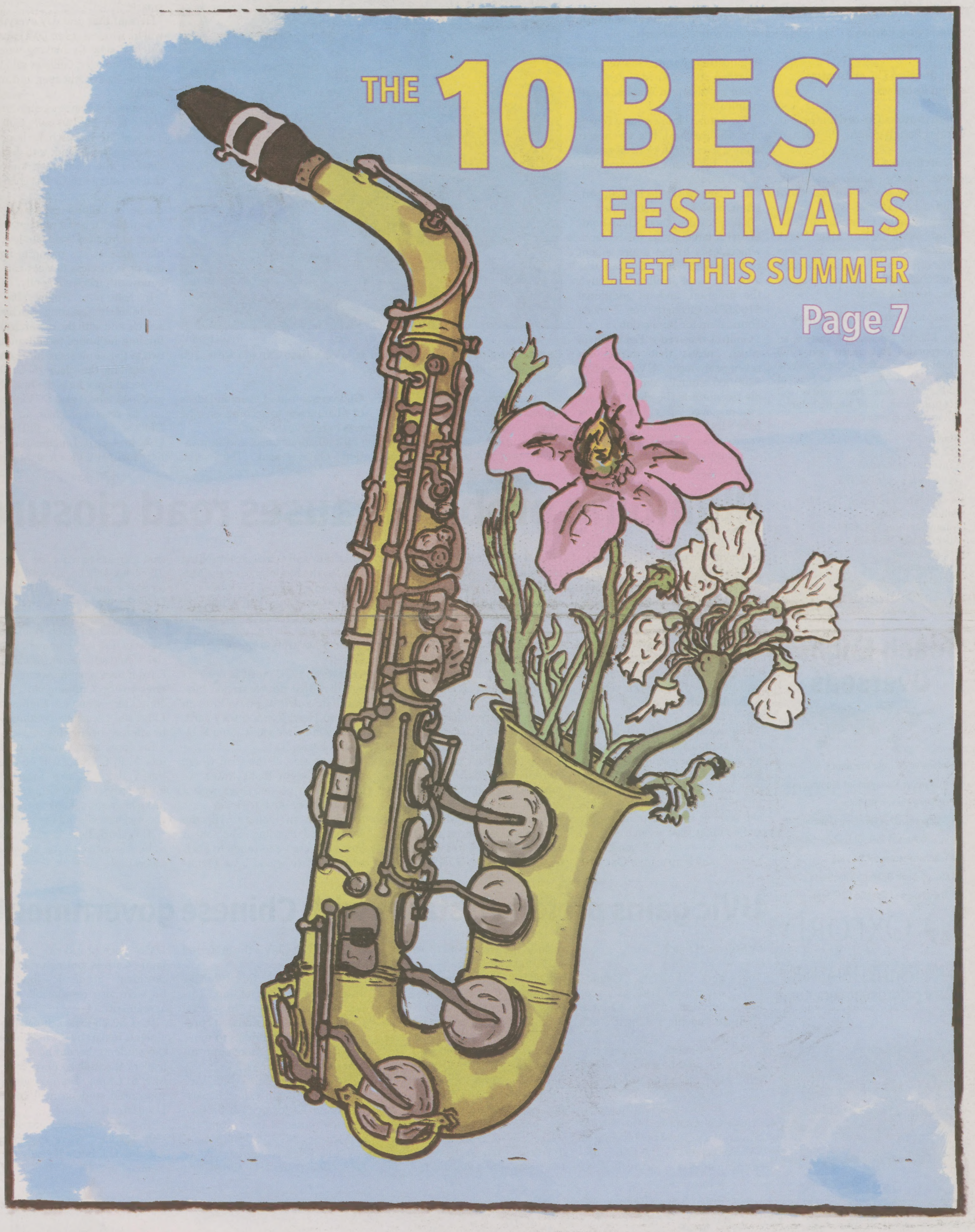

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MARTLET
University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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Gulliver named to research chair

by Kim Magi

One UVic professor is leading the way in wireless research.

On May 23, UVic professor of engineering Aaron Gulliver was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Advanced Wireless Communications.

"I've actually known since February," Gulliver said. His seven-year tenure as research chair began on April 1, but wasn't announced until last month.

The Canada Research Chair program, which was established in 2000, provides their chair-holders with large grants for research which leads to the improvement of Canadians' lives. Gulliver was awarded $1.4 million through the program, and an additional $166,651 through the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

Gulliver received a Tier 1 Chair, which means that during his seven-year term, UVic receives $200,000 annually and he can apply to continue the chair position beyond seven years. Tier 2 Chairs have a five-year term, and the university receives $100,000 annually.

WILLIE LI PHOTO

Engineering prof Aaron Gulliver is UVic's first Canada Research Chair who is also a UVic alumnus.

Each university in Canada is allocated a specific number of Canada Research Chairs. It is up to universities to nominate candidates for their chairs. UVic chose Gulliver for the program last summer, and Gulliver submitted plans and ideas of what he was to accomplish if he was to receive the grant.

"It's all about ideas and innovation," Gulliver said. "The overall theme is to make wireless devices smarter."

He said that one day everything will be wireless, even DVD players and TV sets. By making wireless devices smarter, Gulliver said they will be "faster, cheaper and more reliable."

People are always expecting more from technology, said Gulliver. Through his research, he hopes to put more intelligence into devices, without the consumer knowing that anything drastic has changed, such as the improvement of video quality on cellphones.

"Bandwidth is the most precious thing in my field," said Gulliver, explaining that he's trying to figure out how wireless devices can use bandwidth more efficiently.

To help him, Gulliver has 10 grad students assisting with his research, and with the research chair funding he hopes to add another two to five students to his team.

Awarding the chair to Gulliver is special since he is the first UVic professor who is also a UVic alumnus to receive a chair. In 1989, Gulliver received his PhD from UVic in electrical engineering, and has taught at UVic for eight years.

Plumbing problem causes road closure

by David Karp

Ring Road will be closed between University Drive and Finnerty Road for the majority of July and August.

The University Drive entrance, at the Henderson Road and Ceder Hill Cross Road intersection, will also be closed. However, vehicles will still be able to exit off of University Drive.

Ring Road, which circles the UVic campus, will be closed to install a new sewer line below the street. Dino Valeri, projects manager for UVic's facilities management department, said the closure will start at the beginning of July and go for at least seven weeks.

The new sewer will send sewage to Saanich instead of Oak Bay. UVic is split between the two municipalities.

"All buildings on the Oak Bay side [of campus] currently drain downhill onto Henderson Road," UVic executive director of facilities management Gerry Robson told a Board of Governors meeting. "But the problem with the Oak Bay system is that it's now at its capacity, so we're not able to bring any more volume from the university into that system."

The 4, 7, 14 and 33 bus routes to campus will likely be rerouted up Gordon Head Road during the closure, turning right onto McKenzie Avenue and entering campus via Finnerty Road, said Marj Harding, BC Transit operations supervisor.

The 26 and 51 routes will also enter along Finnerty Road entrance, since they can't circle around Ring Road to the bus loop from the McGill Road entrance.

"The buses may run a little bit late because of that," said Harding. "It's going to depend on how the traffic flows around the university as well."

However, BC Transit is not certain that their double-decker buses can fit under the power lines on Gordon Head Road. If they can't, buses will be rerouted along Shelbourne Street.

"On the side of the road where the wires seem to be lower, we just have to go out there with a measurement just to make sure the decker isn't going to clip the wires," said Harding. She said if buses need to be rerouted to Shelbourne, there would be a significant increase in trip time.

Bicycles will be allowed to enter the campus along University Drive by using the sidewalk next to Finnerty Gardens.

Valeri told an open house that construction and emergency vehicles would still be able to use Ring Road if necessary. However, deliveries to the Cunningham, Petch, computer science, engineering, Elliot and Clearihue buildings will be affected by the closure.

The construction means parking lots A, B, C and 1 will be closed. Valeri also said that joggers using the Mystic Vale chip trails will probably not be able to cross University Drive during the closure.

"This work here is really going to be disruptive to the university," Valeri said.

UVic gains preferred status with Chinese government

by Steven Masuch

The China Scholarship Council (CSC) has named UVic as a preferred university for top Chinese graduate students looking to study overseas.

With this status, Chinese students will now be able to spend scholarship money awarded by the CSC at UVic.

UVic is the first university in British Columbia and the second university in Canada to be granted preferred status by the CSC. Other universities selected by the CSC include the University of Alberta, MIT, and Cambridge.

The CSC scholarships, which are administered by the Chinese government, cover the travel costs, room and board, and health insurance of the graduate students. UVic pays for their tuition.

UVic president David Turpin visited Chinese minister of education Zhou Ji and Zhang Xuiqin, secretary-general of the CSC, to finalize the agreement last month.

Meeting on May 8 in Beijing, Turpin and Xuiqin signed the contract between UVic and the CSC that would give UVic the preferred status.

"Any program like this will make a very positive contribution," Turpin told the Martlet. "In general China-Canada relations, it provides more opportunities to move back and forth and more opportunities for personal relations."

Zuomin Dong, chair of UVic's mechanical engineering department and Ji's former lab partner, was instrumental in creating the agreement.

"I am delighted to be able to help," said Dong. He added that UVic vice-president academic Jamie Cassels and associate vice-president academic Jim Anglin were also responsible for the agreement.

The CSC chooses scholarship recipients in part by the likelihood of the students becoming academic leaders themselves once they return to China. The first group of sponsored students will come to UVic later this year.

"The agreement was just signed," said Turpin. "We're expecting a few this fall, but it'll really get up to speed in 2008."

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Panel calls for change in food production methods

by Sean Peterson

ELLEN ROONEY PHOTO

Experts say buying local food will help the environment.

British Columbians must change their spending habits and rethink their agricultural practices in order to adapt to climate change, said a panel of farmers, biologists and agricultural experts.

That was the message presented in a June 1 public forum at UVic's David Lam Auditorium. The panel discussed the impact of global warming on B.C.'s food supply, and the need to reduce carbon emissions caused by food production.

"We cannot deal with global warming without radical changes to our food system," said panellist Cliff Stainsby, who is a board member with both Food Secure Canada and the BC Food Systems Network. "The biggest problem that global food efforts face is that we've become used to paying so little for food."

But while food might be inexpensive at the cash register, Stainsby warned that the environmental consequences of current food practices are too high. For example, to yield 30 kilograms of corn, more than two litres of oil are used to produce the fertilizer, power the farm machinery, irrigate the fields, and create and distribute the pesticides needed for the crop.

Localizing farms could be a solution to this problem. Stainsby said that giving agricultural markets a local focus could reduce the problem of "food miles"—the distance food is transported. A Canadian study shows that the average food import travels 4,500 kilometres before it is consumed.

Farm size is also an important factor in reducing environmental consequences of production. "Smaller farms produce far more food per acre...and whether you measure that in tons, calories, or dollars, [small farms] always win," said Stainsby. He said that small farms tend to employ more workers per acre of land.

Panellist Tom Henry stressed the importance of bolstering local farm infrastructure before any solution can take place. Henry, editor of Small Farm Canada magazine and a partner in Lambs Leap Farm in Metchosin, sees a need for drastic changes to consumers' spending habits.

"There's a notion floating around that if we buy local, we can reduce the environmental impact of [global warming]...but some changes are going to have to take place before local food can be a viable response," said Henry. "Farm numbers continue to decline in Canada and around Victoria. Farmers still can't find a way to make a living."

While there is an increasing awareness of failing agricultural infrastructure, Henry worries that consumers and the government are not taking action.

"There are conferences like this taking place all over the world, yet there isn't a parallel rise in local food production. I see the local food movement as a glorious cathedral, and the producer as a lone hippy underneath, squatting on the floor, banging two pieces of wilted rhubarb together."

When the laughter of the roughly 100 people who attended the forum died, Henry explained that local farms cannot supply a quick fix—his own farm would be hard-pressed to supply everyone in the room with local meat on top of his usual customers.

There just isn't enough local food in B.C. to go around, and Henry said that needs to change. "Consumers need to adjust their buying habits to support local food," said Henry. "This can be summarized in a motherly tone as, 'You need to eat more root vegetables,' because that's all we can grow.

"Consumers need to keep in season, buy in bulk, and of course they need to pay more than they do in the grocery store."

Richard Hebda, a UVic biology professor specializing in climate change, also sat on the panel. Hebda used maps to predict drastic future changes to B.C.'s agricultural landscape and the danger to our food supply as the climate warms. But he was optimistic that society can benefit through adaptation, and an understanding of the challenge facing both farmers and city-dwellers. Secure quality food production requires keeping agricultural land, as well as diversifying our food products and practices, said Dr. Hebda.

Sinclair Philip, president of the Vancouver Island branch of Slow Food Canada and innkeeper at the Sooke Harbour House, rounded out the panel.

BOARD BRIEFS

Board afraid to debate the issues?
The UVic students' society board of directors passed a motion May 30 to endorse a controversial protest—with no debate whatsoever.

The motion, which had the students' society endorse the June 29 National Aboriginal Day of Action and write a letter of support to provincial and federal politicians, is controversial because the day of action may involve stopping trains by obstructing or sabotaging rail lines.

"This is a long time coming and it is a seriously contentious issue," Native Students Union board representative Ami Brosseau told the board of directors as he presented the motion.

"There was a call put out two weeks ago to shut down the country on June 29," said Brosseau. "They plan to shut down every train track in the country on the 29th." However, Brosseau added that the Assembly of First Nations didn't condone the shutdown.

"Anyone wanna go blockade some trains?" Brosseau asked after the motion passed unopposed.

One board member, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Martlet afterward that they didn't like the motion but did not want to become chastised by colleagues by speaking or voting against it. "You have to pick and choose your battles," the board member explained.

Secret society
A motion to endorse Peter Verin's campaign to return to campus was debated in secrecy. Verin has made his home in the student union building for many years, but was recently forced to leave by the university and local police.

After the in-camera debate on May 30, where no spectators were allowed because the motion was said to involve a staffing issue, the motion was defeated unanimously.

Even director of services Erica Virtue, who put forward the motion, voted against it. "There was some new information presented," she told the Martlet afterward. But she kept mum on what that information was.

Pullman pulls down pants
In his June 11 activity report to the board, Ed Pullman told his colleagues of his latest initiative to support environmentally-friendly forms of transportation.

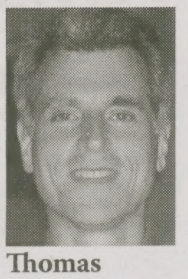
"I had the pleasure of supporting sustainable bicycle transit by taking part in the birthday suit bike ride," the director-at-large said.

Pullman was referring to the June 9 World Naked Bike Ride, which took place in downtown Victoria. According to the event's website, the purpose is "to celebrate cycling and the human body," as well as to show the "vulnerability of cyclists on the road and...protest oil dependency."

LECTURE REVIEW

Homer-Dixon brings optimism to a world gripped by crisis

by Gregory Virc



Thomas Homer-Dixon

Start dealing with global crisis now, advises Thomas Homer-Dixon.

The director of Toronto's Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies shared his views on global politics in a lecture at UVic on May 19.

A common notion among social and critical theorists is the idea of narrative: the concept that who we are as a collective is defined by what we believe and do as a whole. In post-modern theory—a late 20th-century ideology—the narrative is believed to be dead as we move toward individuality.

But narrative is not dead yet. There is a new narrative to unite people: global crisis. Writing this new narrative is a clutch of scientists, theorists, politicians and environmentalists who brandish the devastating news of our imminent decline with vertigo-inducing statistics and flow charts, as well as a healthy dose of we-are-all-screwed-and-you've-been-told.

Enter Homer-Dixon, a successful Victoria-born author, to help separate the hardships from the hysteria. In his clear, succinct, and rational manner—with a touch of compassion—he comes across as having grasped the bleakness of our situation. But rather than give in to pessimism, Homer-Dixon had a different take: we have made some egregious errors in our relationships with each other and our environment, bad times are upon us, but it's not too late to salvage our world.

Gathering his lecture from his book *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity and the Renewal of Civilization*, Homer-Dixon captivated his audience with an unsettling account of society's most crucial and vexing issues. He identified five "tectonic stresses" that could induce a global meltdown: imbalance between rich and poor countries, widening gaps between rich and poor people, climate change, energy scarcity, and environmental stresses—including deforestation and pollution.

Homer-Dixon also brought up terrorism and the threat of a nuclear attack, mentioning the hoards of uranium being stored in insecure bunkers in areas of the former Soviet Union.

The lecture was like being on a grim tour of the end of humanity. However, as Homer-Dixon promised, he delivered a small-but-shrinking window of light, urging listeners to be realistic about problems, to not be swayed by social or political extremism, and to start making changes now through "open-architectures": systems that can be built on, swapped, and layered without necessarily harming the original foundation (Wikipedia is a good example).

But he could not provide direct solutions to the problems he listed, and in the end withdrew to his idea of "catagenesis"—rebirth through breakdown. Homer-Dixon delivered a vivid diagnosis of our predicament, but the prescription seemed somewhat ambiguous—a hard-to-swallow pill not yet fashioned and not likely amenable to our collective nervous system.

NEWS BRIEF

Survey will study binners
A survey of local binners later this month hopes to bring more understanding to a unique occupation.

Binners—people who collect bottles for a living—will be involved in a week-long binning assessment starting the week of June 18. UVic's Communities-based Research Laboratory will conduct the assessment and has already begun studying the estimated 50 binners in the Capital Region.

The aim of the study is to find out what obstacles the binners face and attempt to record their financial gains from binning. Currently, taking bottles out of garbage cans and recycling boxes is illegal, though the researchers are hoping to change this.

"At the end of the day, it's really about bringing awareness about the binners," said Crystal Tremblay, a geography graduate student who is involved with the survey.

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Editorial
Time to welcome Peter Verin back to campus

Given the stimulating discussions so many students have shared with Peter Verin, it is surprising that the UVic Students' Society has had such a troubled relationship with him.

In 2001, UVic banned Verin from all university buildings—the student union building was the lone exception. That year, the students' society initiated what looked like an agreement based on tolerance and mutual respect for the dignity of all parties, setting an example for the university. The agreement was drafted by a 10-person committee and unanimously accepted as presented by the students' society board of directors.

In 2003, new management in the student union building imposed a policy that set out a very different relationship with Verin, restricting his behaviour and removing accommodations that were previously extended to him. Management argued that the mediation report was only accepted for informational purposes and was not binding. Under the newly imposed policy, some student union employees were instructed to monitor Verin's behaviour, report infractions of the policy, and impose penalties if necessary.

While student union building management may have acted within their authority when overriding the mediation agreement, they gave Verin legitimate reason to feel betrayed. He thought he had an agreement made in good faith with the student's society.

The students' union should apologize to Verin for ripping up the mediation agreement and denying it had any relevance. The strained relationship over the last several years is a direct result of ignoring that agreement in favour of an overbearing approach to regulating his behaviour—which has undoubtedly sparked several arguments between Verin and student union staff.

The student's union should return to honouring the mediation report to guide its relationship with Verin. That agreement should be used as a briefing paper for future boards, setting an example for the rest of the university.

For their part, the UVic administration is raising some interesting questions about its character and what a university is all about. Many students at UVic strive to develop intellectual courage—the capacity to be a voice in the wilderness, speak truth to power, and perhaps even live an alternative lifestyle in the face of ridicule.

Verin demonstrates intellectual courage every day, fighting all the while to protect his dignity in the face of accusations that he was warned, but just couldn't follow the rules, or that he has urinated in a public place (which, it should be noted, has also been done by many drunk UVic students).

Clearly, Verin brought numerous benefits to campus. He philosophized with students. He helped students generate ideas for term papers. He salvaged waste. He confounded our understanding of normality, exposing us to a different way of living. Above all, Verin showed that the university can be a place of tolerance, dialogue and respect for differences.

Or perhaps he has proven otherwise.

Verin and UVic have had ongoing lawsuits against each other for years. Verin even threatened legal action against a few student politicians who he felt were undermining his rights.

Legal threats aren't nice. But then again, student politics and litigation seem to go hand-in-hand. For someone who has been around student politics for decades, a few legal threats may be a rare sign of cultural conformity more than anything else.

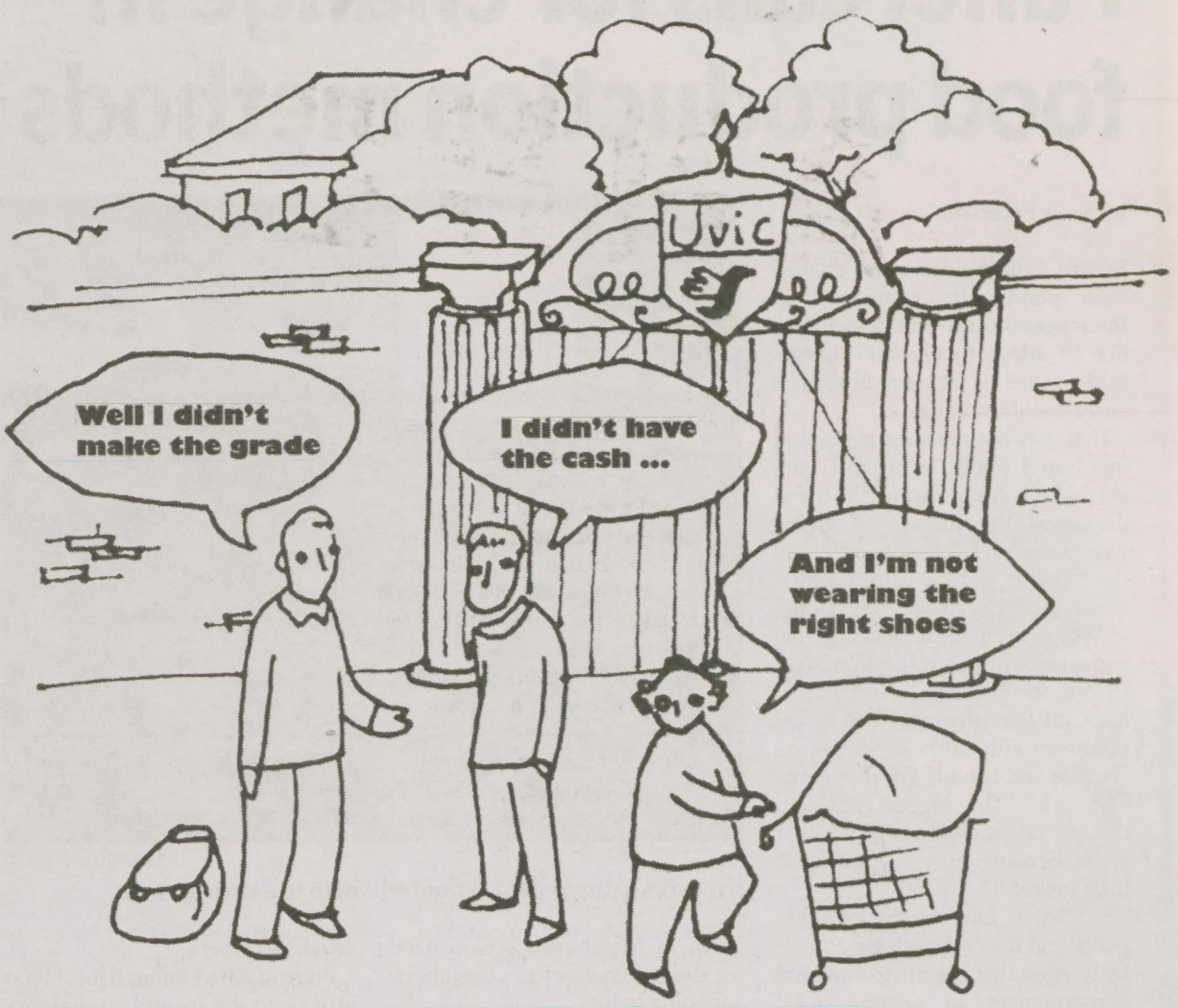
Verin is no saint. To some people, he's clearly a royal pain in the ass. But so are some students, faculty and administrators. When the university starts choosing which pains it bans, it is engaging in censorship.

UVic should not ban the exchange of ideas in the same way it prohibits leaving salvageable materials unattended to on campus. Sure, Verin may do both. But he has earned his tenure at UVic—his salvaging is part of the package.

The university should initiate a more tolerant, respectful and dignified relationship with Verin, recognizing minor disturbances for the minor costs that they are. They represent a morsel of the priceless value of the dialogic form of education Verin has shared with so many students, for so long.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at an editorial meeting in the *Martlet* office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING UNIVERSITY



LETTERS

Trouble on transit

On May 28 at the UVic bus exchange I saw two things. One I expect to see in Victoria, the other not. Three elderly women toting a wheelchair and a bag on wheels were emotionally abused by a transit driver. The women did not know how to secure the wheelchair and the driver refused to help. Indeed, he started driving while the wheelchair was rolling in the aisles, as well as the elderly women. He yelled at the women to get the chair secured. But they did not know how (and he knew that!)—besides, they were too busy trying to stabilize themselves. I have never seen a bus driver so abusive to elderly people and it is not something I would ever expect to see in Victoria.

A young man, possibly a UVic student, came to their aid. He pulled the cord to stop the bus driver from driving while the elderly women and their wheelchair were not secured. He walked to the front and confronted the driver telling him, "We do not behave this way in Victoria." The bus driver simply yelled at him and continued to drive. The young man insisted on leaving the bus while it was in the hands of such an abusive driver. One of the elderly women asked him to stay and he did. This is the kind of behaviour I expect to see in Victoria. I don't know this young man, but he exemplifies the true spirit of Victoria, a place where everyone, especially our elders, is respected and treated as such.

-Marsha Carew, UVic alumnus

Kudos for cover story

Congratulations to the Martlet and to Anna Czolpinski for the great cover photo and well-crafted article (Street-involved women 'learn to soar' through art, May 17).

The piece will add a great deal to the positive energies being felt by the women themselves—the artists—who have so brilliantly used their imagination to tell a story that we can all learn from.

Keep up the good work.

-Budd Hall, UVic director of community-based research

Assisted suicide should be legal

by Gemma Karstens-Smith

Should terminally ill patients have the right to choose when they die?

The contentious issue has been pushed back into the media spotlight with Dr. Jack Kevorkian's release from prison. Kevorkian, also known as Dr. Death, was released on June 1 after serving eight years of a 10- to 25-year sentence for helping terminally-ill patient Thomas Youk die. He said that he helped at least 130 people die, although Youk's death is the only one of which he was convicted.

Assisted suicide is illegal across most of North America, including all of Canada. Oregon is the only state to legalize physician-assisted suicides. In Europe, assisted suicide is legal in Switzerland, the Netherlands and Belgium.

A recent study conducted by a psychologist at the Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre found that nearly two-thirds of the 379 terminally-ill cancer patients surveyed supported the legalization of physician-assisted suicide. Yet terminally-ill patients are still being denied the choice to end their pain before nature does it for them. Some opponents argue that assisted suicide is nothing more than murder. Others use religion, arguing that all life is sacred.

Life is no longer sacred when your body becomes your enemy. For patients with diseases which cause them to lose the use of their arms and legs, every day is filled with embarrassment as they lose the ability to perform life's most basic tasks for themselves, relying instead on family members and aide workers to feed them, clothe them, and even help them use the bathroom. Patients can feel guilty for the physical, emotional and financial strains they put on their families, making the depression they feel over their impending death even more severe. The patient's quality of life deteriorates to a point where they just want the physical and emotional pain to be over.

Because of the mass of ethical grey area concerning assisted suicide, the procedures must be heavily regulated in order to ensure that patients are truly unable to cope with living any longer. In Oregon, for example, patients must be declared terminally ill by two doctors, have a life expectancy of six months or less, and request lethal drugs three times.

When a patient's body has turned on them, when they know they have a finite amount of painful time left on Earth, they should have the option of saying goodbye to the world on their own terms.

Happy? Sad? Enraged? Aroused? Tell us: letters@martlet.ca

Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited for length. Deadline for letters is 10 a.m. on the Monday before publication. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

BANNED MAN

by Tim Lindsay

UVic's recent decision to ban local man Peter Verin from the UVic campus demonstrates an unfortunate lack of due process, says Verin.

The university says it prides itself on being open and accessible to a wide range of people, but needed to take action in response to complaints from students, staff and faculty. The university banned Verin from accessing campus in April.

Verin, 62, has been a regular visitor to the UVic campus for 27 years, dividing his time between engaging in dialogue among the university community and salvaging materials that would otherwise go to waste.

Verin says he is the victim of homeless stereotypes, thereby deflecting attention away from disconcerting aspects of the university, such as laughable process, endemic abuse of power, and a lack of sustainability. He has an address off-campus.

"Twice I extended both in writing and in good faith an invitation [to UVic] to engage in a mediated solution to our differences," says Verin. "They're not offering a process—they're just saying, 'Compliance.' In [a recent meeting with UVic] it became clear they're just saying, 'Comply, or else.' I said we'll agree to disagree, because I'm looking for rational inquiry. For six years my freedoms have been restricted."

Early in 2001, UVic issued a letter to Verin banning him from all university buildings, except the student union building (SUB). In November 2001, Verin filed a lawsuit against UVic alleging that he had been assaulted three times in that year. UVic filed a counterclaim against Verin shortly thereafter. That legal battle is still making its way through the courts.

Verin has had a long-standing relationship with many UVic officials. He believes the offices pushing for the ban had a retaliatory motive. "Banning me from the buildings [in 2001] was in retaliation to soliciting support eight days earlier from the [UVic students' society] for an independent inquiry into three distinct bodies on campus," says Verin.

In response to his being banned from all buildings except the SUB, a mediation process was organized involving Verin, his advocate David Turner, and the students' society (UVSS). The mediation process resulted in an agreement unanimously accepted as presented by the UVSS in April 2001.

The mediation agreement recognized the value of reclamation and salvaging activities, including Verin's contribution. It provided for Verin to have a sorting space adjacent to the SUB and to respect the rules of the building, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and effective communication to avoid conflict. The ombudsperson at UVic was identified as someone who could help resolve disputes and mediate any substantial changes to the agreement.

SUB general manager Marne Jensen told the Martlet that when she began her job in 2002, she and the UVSS chairperson at the time were of the opinion that the agreement was only accepted "for information" by the UVSS and was not meant to be binding. Jensen says that in discussions with the ombudsperson it became clear that "there are some things you can't mediate."

"You can't mediate my authority. I either have authority or I don't—there's no mediation there," says Jensen, who sees it as her job to try to reduce and resolve conflict in the SUB. She says that while Verin is an individual with rights, he creates a mess when he's reclaiming items, spreading smelly garbage around that attracts pests.

Conflict between Peter Verin and the university is nothing new

In 2003, Jensen issued a letter to Verin replacing the mediation agreement with a new set of rules. The letter echoed the university stance, prohibiting Verin from activities including retrieving anything from garbage containers, leaving belongings unattended, having more possessions than he could carry, and from discussing UVSS employees' actions in the SUB with anyone other than senior managers. Failure to comply would result in "suspension of your privilege to enter and make use of the SUB," reads the letter, dated March 14, 2003.

The letter was backed up with a court injunction that prohibited Verin from loading dock areas and from retrieving anything from garbage receptacles.

Jensen says UVSS staff were instructed to enforce the policy, but that they often had difficulty dealing with Verin, who would try to push them into insubordination by appealing to their conscience.

Verin's activities in the SUB go beyond salvaging. He hosted a public affairs radio show on CFUV for many years, which he says ended in 2000 when he commented on air that, "The quality of my show cannot help but be affected by my restricted access to the station."

CFUV station manager Randy Gelling said that the station has a policy preventing volunteers from talking about personal grievances on the air. "There was a long history going back, including conflict with volunteers," Gelling said. "His file went back to 1992 in terms of problems."

Verin also sat on the board of the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group, where he ruffled feathers by recommending turnover of their key staff.

Chris Hamel, a fourth-year UVic sociology student, has been petitioning to allow Peter Verin to come back to campus. Reviewing the letters of support, Verin acknowledges that the people "took the time and trouble to give me the benefit of the doubt."

TIM LINDSAY PHOTO

Peter Verin says his ban from campus isn't about him—it's about abuse of power, laughable process and lack of sustainability.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY UVIC COMMUNICATIONS

UVic officials say Verin is banned in part because of the messes he leaves on campus—including the one pictured above.

CHRIS HAMEL PHOTO

"Maybe I would disappoint them later on, but I think they themselves would want you or me to give them the benefit of the doubt if something like this happened. They wouldn't automatically jump to the conclusion that because somebody slams you in the head, that you deserve it."

A group called Peter Verin @ UVic has also popped up on the social networking website Facebook. The group was started by UVic student Yianni Pappas-Acreman "to facilitate discussion," and had 143 members as of press time. The site makes it clear that students are divided on whether Verin should be allowed on campus.

Kilpatrick says that he and others met with Verin near the end of March prior to the university's most recent actions against him. "We confirmed the conditions. We offered to clarify anything not understood, and we covered off where things would likely go if Peter didn't observe the conditions."

The university issued Verin a letter on April 5, saying he was no longer welcome on campus. He has since been charged with failing to leave or stop an activity on or in a premises.

Kilpatrick says that Verin's messes have interfered with classes by leaving messes in classrooms, and that he has entered buildings, propped open doors, disabled locks, urinated in public, and has fallen asleep with his pants open. "After many years, we reached the point with Peter where we had to do something—and that something was to say, 'You've got to comply.' Had he complied, he'd still be coming to campus."

"They are really decimating my character," said Verin. "This is the way they operate. For six years my freedoms have been restricted and I've been relegated to a second class person. I'm sorry, but this is not reflective of the character of the university."

-with files from David Karp

Grand Theft Bicycle puts cyclists in control

by Steve Carey

Eighties music pounds as Steve Gibson rides his bike through the virtual streets of *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*.

The projector flickers and the audience in the Open Space art gallery watches as he begins riding his bicycle around a virtual world. Within a few seconds he's smoked by an Oldsmobile and thrown into the air. The Olds is met with a burst of gunfire when he straightens out his bike and resumes riding.

Dressed in a red, white and blue cycling shirt, the fit and lean Gibson said *Grand Theft Bicycle* is the end result of an idea he had two years ago to "take out the cars" after repeated near-misses while riding to work. Gibson, an associate professor in digital media at UVic, built the project with computer scientist and visual artist Justin Love and graphic designer and visual artist Jimmy Olson.

Gibson keeps pedalling through the city. A woman in an orange dress and a pillbox hat appears in front of him, produces a .45, and starts shooting. "Margaret Thatcher," he shouts, right before his gun-toting avatar rolls over her on his BMX. He does a quick turn in real life, pulling on the bike handlebars, and is soon surrounded by a group of balding men dressed in Hawaiian shirts. He yelps, "Dick Cheney!" before he sprays the group with his machine gun. Hillary Clinton is next, and a little later a Baghdad ambulance catches fire before he blows it up.

The gangs are made up of political figures: Stephen Harper, George Bush Sr. and Jr., Brian Mulroney, Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. Tony Blair, Arnold Schwarzenegger and others also appear as gun-toting gang members.

"Video games don't really have artists using them to comment on society," said Olson, while Gibson rides around a virtual Las Vegas.

Olson modelled the political figures—a personal task for him. "One of the ways we can strike back is by taking existing games and bending them to our will. I'm happy to be one of the first generation of artists that is able to subvert a video game like that."

The bystanders that walk the streets of *Grand Theft Auto* have been removed, leaving only the political gang members. The cyclist is invulnerable and the ammunition is unlimited. There are no quests, no win conditions and no story. The gangs don't shoot at you until you shoot at them, so there's not really any reason to fight.

"I've had people play who didn't engage in the game violence. I had a hippie...at [the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design] when we set up there. She just rode off into the woods and had a little woodland adventure," said Gibson. "You actually don't have to fight...but with those characters there it's pretty overwhelming."

The project was funded by a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund. They're interested in the emerging technologies—specifically, the bike as a game controller.

"The biking controller can play any game with a joystick," said Gibson, "and that's what's interesting from a development point of view—having a bike controller to get people physically active while playing a game."

Riding the bike is as intuitive as, well, riding a bike. Steering is done by turning the handlebars left and right, speed is measured by the pedalling rate, buttons are on the handlebars for brake, fire and jump. All of this is done through a USB hardware controller Gibson said costs around $200.

"The idea is to have physical exercise and not realize you're doing it," said Gibson. "Video games are normally so sedentary."

Gibson said the beauty of *Grand Theft Bicycle* is that people accept it as a first-person shooter, not as a difficult or educational task. He said that during the beta tests, people would ride for around 45 minutes, then get off dripping with sweat and realize they just had a solid workout.

"The trick was to go with a common model—the first-person shooter—and not try to make it educational. Kids would smell that a mile away," said Gibson.

SARAH DRAKE GRAPHIC

Gibson taught both Olson and Love through UVic's visual arts department, and was eager to work with them on this project.

The next step for the *Grand Theft Bicycle* designers is a trip to Mexico as part of UVic's partnership with the Universidad Veracruzana. "I had no problem selling it to the Mexicans when I told them they were going to be able to shoot at George Bush," said Gibson, laughing. "It took about five minutes of convincing."

MOVIE PREVIEW

War movie revitalizes genre

by Sam VanSchie

Black Book
June 15 – 21
Vic Theater

In war, the line between hero and villain is blurred in the stream of gunfire.

Black Book, set in the Netherlands during the final months of World War II, shows this grey area of ordinary people managing their fear and bravery to survive. Fast plot turns will keep you guessing who will come out looking heroic at the end of this thriller.

The action (and shooting) begins when charming Jewish singer Rachel Steinn (Carice van Houten) sees her rural hideout bombed. With nothing left, she decides to flee to the liberated southern part of the Netherlands with her family and other wealthy Jews.

But Germans spot the barge they are on and shoot everyone on board—except Steinn, who escapes. From the river, she watches the bloody bodies get pulled ashore and looted. She makes it her mission to get revenge on the people who killed her family.

Steinn assumes a false identity and even dies her pubic hair blond so the Germans she seduces won't suspect she is Jewish. She fearlessly flirts her way out of trouble, finding allies at the flash of a smile. But it's hard to know who you can trust in such desperate times.

The film's director, Paul Verhoeven, is well known for his extreme violence and sultry sex scenes. He's the mind behind *RoboCop*, *Starship Troopers* and *Hollow Man*.

Verhoeven spent 20 years co-writing the script for *Black Book* with Gerard Soeteman. Seventeen years in, they decided to change the lead role to a woman and everything fell into place.

The film was shown at the Toronto International Film Festival last fall, receiving mixed reviews from critics. Its biggest pitfall is that it's a war film. It's strength is that it's a new take on a tired genre.

The film is less about framing Nazis as heartless whatevers and more about how people managed to survive in the face of radical suppression. The strong-woman lead is a nice contrast to the typical guy-with-the-gun shooting enemies and getting the girl.

And there's still enough sex and violence to please any action-hungry audience.

MOVIE REVIEW

Film tackles AIDS issue

by Anna Czolpinski

Condoms, Fish & Circus Tricks presents a disturbing picture of AIDS in southern Africa.

The documentary by husband-and-wife team Brenda and Robert Rooney was screened on June 4 in UVic's David Lam Auditorium.

The film suggested education—not only about the disease—as one of the most important solutions to the AIDS crisis in southern Africa. Education was presented as a means of creating hope for the future and providing a reason to stay infection-free.

Interwoven among a series of stories shot in Malawi, Zambia and South Africa were discussions with the African Dream Circus. They're a group of South African youth trained in circus skills, with the aim of encouraging straight talk about sex and challenging traditional concepts of sexuality. Their discussions dealt with the complex issues that today's youth in southern Africa face—how the disease affects their lives, the incentive to get tested when there is no cure, and why makers of HIV/AIDS drugs don't offer their products to poor countries at a reduced cost.

There are 13 million AIDS orphans across sub-Saharan Africa. This figure is expected to rise to 40 million by 2010, while the communities expected to care for the orphans struggle to meet their basic needs. The film illustrated this situation through the eyes of Fances Longwe, a man who had lost his wife to HIV/AIDS and was battling the disease himself. We met him in the backdrop of his village in northern Malawi where the population of 250 is caring for over 50 AIDS orphans—one in five villagers is an orphan.

"Imagine the burden such numbers would have on cities like New York, London or Toronto," said the film's narrator.

In Zambia, the documentary stated, over 70 per cent of families are caring for an orphan. Many of these families cannot afford to pay for their education. "If you don't have education you are sunk, especially in this part of the world," said Felicitas Chiganze of the Southern Africa AIDS Training Program. Chiganze stressed the grave importance of education for females. "The older woman can negotiate for safer sex, but not the little girl," she said.

Next we meet Dr. Kennedy Malama, director of the Monze Mission Hospital in southern Zambia, the only major health institution in the district of 220,000 people. Immuno-compromised patients mostly occupied the 300-bed hospital. Malama spoke about the secondary infections that come with HIV/AIDS, many of which the hospital has trouble diagnosing because of a lack of materials. "We have a duty to perform and we don't look backward—we just have to continue and see," he said.

The third slice of life came from a nomadic fishing community along Zambia's Kafue River. The filmmakers interviewed Veronica Siyonga, an employee of the Monze Mission Hospital who cares for the community's many AIDS patients discharged from hospital. She explained that the community's high incidence of AIDS was due to the local fish trade. Women who come to buy fish often pay with sex, spreading sexually-transmitted diseases including HIV.

"This place is visited by many people. They come here to buy fish and leave whatever they leave," said one of the local fishermen.

The film also showed hope. "A massive education campaign is underway," said the narrator. "From the remotest villages to the largest cities, people are hearing the safe-sex message."

The film maintained that it is the young people, and their education, that is Africa's hope. "[Young people] have the vitality, flexibility and open-mindedness to change the way they live and to challenge the society they live in," the film said. "Their challenge is to keep themselves infection free. Ours is to resolve not to cheat them of their futures."

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Summer music festivals are a great way to party

by Mike Vasilev

So you've decided to go on a road trip, but you don't know where to go. Or you're bored, but don't know what to do. Or you want to post comments on Facebook, but don't know what to say. Whatever the problem, I have 10 of exactly what the good doctor ordered.

Jazzfest International

When: June 22 to 28
Where: Various venues around Victoria
Web: www.jazzvictoria.ca
Who: Holly Cole, Sonny Rollins, Chris Botti, Moses Mayes, Brian Nova Trio
How much: Tickets range from free to $82
Why: It's a chance to see some great jazz musicians, and you don't have to go very far.

Solstice Festival for the Folk

When: June 28 to July 2
Where: Market Square (Victoria)
Web: www.myspace.com/festivalforthefolk
Who: Children of Celebrities, Outlaw Social, Nate Dunn, Shyne, Gerald Fitzella
How much: All-day tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. $60 for a festival pass.
Why: It's in Victoria, it's in its first year, it's showing a lot of promise and it's only right that we show it some love.

High Sierra Music Festival

When: July 5 to 8
Where: Quincy, California
Web: www.highsierramusic.com
Who: Page McConnell, Yonder Mountain String Band, Xavier Rudd, the Disco Biscuits
How much: US$167
Why: Awesome setting, and Xavier Rudd is amazing.

Vancouver Island Musicfest

When: July 6 to 8
Where: Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds (Courtenay, B.C.)
Web: www.islandmusicfest.com
Who: Don McLean, Bedouin Soundclash, Joan Armatrading, Los Lobos, Outlaw Social
How much: $109
Why: It's on the Island and it's got an impressive lineup. Good times will follow.

MountainFest

When: July 12 to 15
Where: Merritt, B.C.
Web: www.mountainfest.com
Who: Carrie Underwood, Reba McEntire, Gretchen Wilson, Tanya Tucker
How much: $195
Why: If country is your cup of tea, this is the festival to be at. The camping is great too.

Soundwave

When: July 13 to 15
Where: Mussel Beach Wilderness Campground (near Ucluelet, B.C.)
Web: soundwave.groovey.com
Who: Lori, Deadbeat, Mike Shannon, Noah Pred, Phil Western
How much: To be announced
Why: Incredible location and sonic vibrations. Buy your ticket and ride the wave.

Diversity Festival

When: July 20 to 22
Where: Texada Island, B.C.
Web: www.coastalconscious.com/diversity.htm
Who: Gordon Field, Five Alarm Funk, Sean Sirbassa Hill, Dream Tree, Adham Shaikh
How much: To be announced
Why: Texada Island is unspoiled, pristine and will be utterly electrified. And it's so close to home.

Shambahala

When: Aug. 8 to 13
Where: Salmo River Ranch—a 500-acre ranch near Nelson, B.C.
Web: www.shambhalamusicfestival.com
Who: Diesel Boy, Yannis, Doc Martin Live, Solar, El Papa Chango, Jon Delerious
How much: $165
Why: This is the crucible of artistry and musical mayhem. This is the zenith of modern underground entertainment.

Burning Man

When: Aug. 27 to Sept. 3
Where: Black Rock Desert, Nevada
Web: www.burningman.com
Who: A 25-metre wooden man just itching to burn
How much: US$280
Why: Slap me silly and call me psilocybin. This is the most extreme and psychedelic experience imaginable—with or without drugs.

Bumbershoot

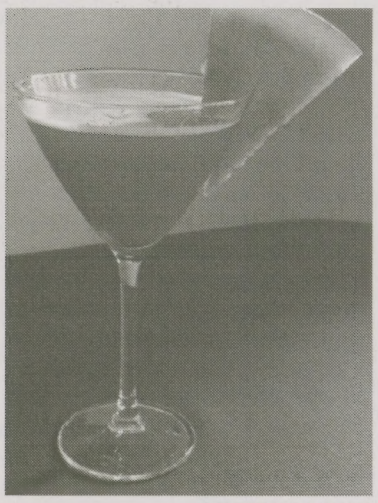
When: Sept. 1 to 3
Where: Seattle, Washington
Web: www.bumbershoot.org
Who: Sean Paul, Gym Class Heroes, The Shins, Wu-Tang Clan, Panic! At The Disco
How much: US$75
Why: Seattle's usually a good time—you could drive a lot further for a lot less.

DRINKING WITH DEREK

The red and white of Canada Day

by Derek Mandel

As someone with a Canada-flag tattoo, I'm inspired by our July 1 national birthday. Using Canada's colours as inspiration, I have concocted two drinks—one red and one white—to help celebrate Canada Day. Each of these cocktails emphasizes the freshness of Canadian produce, and pairs well with friends and fireworks.



DEREK MANDEL PHOTO

The Red (Watermelon Martini)
Canada is a myriad of cultures, each of which has brought unique flavours to our great land. Watermelon, brought to Canada from West Africa, is one such flavour. Watermelon has a higher concentration of water in its flesh than any other fruit, making it the optimal candidate to include in cocktails.

Ingredients

90 ml (3 oz) fresh watermelon reduction (see sidebar)

30 ml (1 oz) vodka

ice

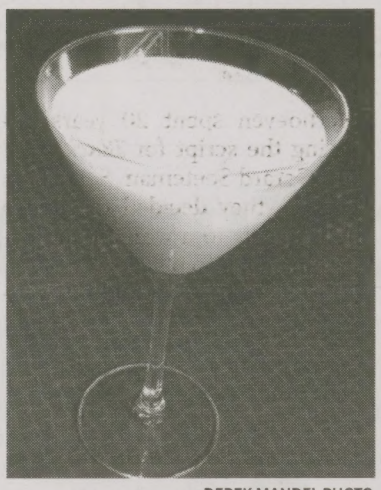
Mixing Instructions

Combine ingredients in a martini shaker and shake vigorously.

Strain into a martini glass to remove the ice.

Garnish with fresh watermelon.

Makes one drink.



DEREK MANDEL PHOTO

The White (White Blended Maple)
Canada is famous for its maple syrup. We produce more than 80 per cent of the world's maple syrup, allowing us to claim it as our own. Having a food product as a national symbol demands responsible use, such as in a blended cocktail.

Ingredients

15 ml (1/2 oz) vanilla vodka

15 ml (1/2 oz) Frangelico (hazelnut liqueur)

15 ml (1/2 oz) maple syrup

30 ml (1 oz) milk or light cream (10 per cent)

125 ml (1/2 cup) ice

Mixing Instructions

Combine all ingredients in a blender and liquefy until smooth. Serve in a martini glass.

Makes one drink.

Fresh watermelon reduction

A reduction has a more intense flavour than a fresh juice. Watermelon does not possess a naturally overpowering flavour, so a reduction of its juice is recommended. By removing some of the water from the juice, the flavour will be more concentrated.

Ingredients

1/4 of a seedless watermelon

1 coffee filter

Instructions

Remove the red flesh of the watermelon, avoiding the white portions near the green rind.

Place the flesh into a blender and liquefy until smooth.

Strain the juice through a sieve, then through a coffee filter. This removes the majority of the pulp. It also removes the seeds, which become bitter when cooked.

In a small saucepan bring the juice to a boil. Continue to simmer until half of the water has been removed by evaporation, reducing the volume by half.

While the juice is reducing, fill a sink with cold water to about half the depth of the saucepan. Submerge the saucepan once the reduction is complete to quickly cool the juice.

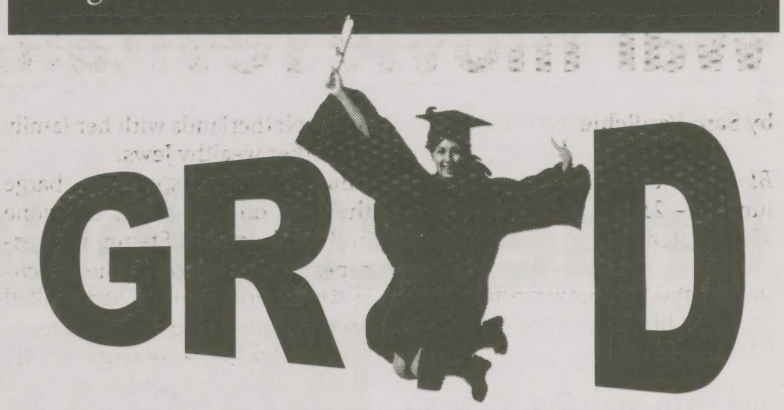
Once the reduction is cool, store it in an airtight container, such as a mason jar, and refrigerate. The reduction will separate over time, but a quick stir or shake will return it to the necessary consistency.

Makes approximately 750 ml (3 cups).

Maple syrup vs. table syrup

Maple syrup is different from table syrup. Table syrup is a mixture of sugar, water and artificial flavors with 10 to 30 per cent maple syrup blended in. Maple syrup is extracted from trees and has no additional sugar added. Although it is more expensive, only maple syrup will provide the necessary natural flavour for this cocktail.

Artona
Congratulations To The UVIC Graduates Of 2007



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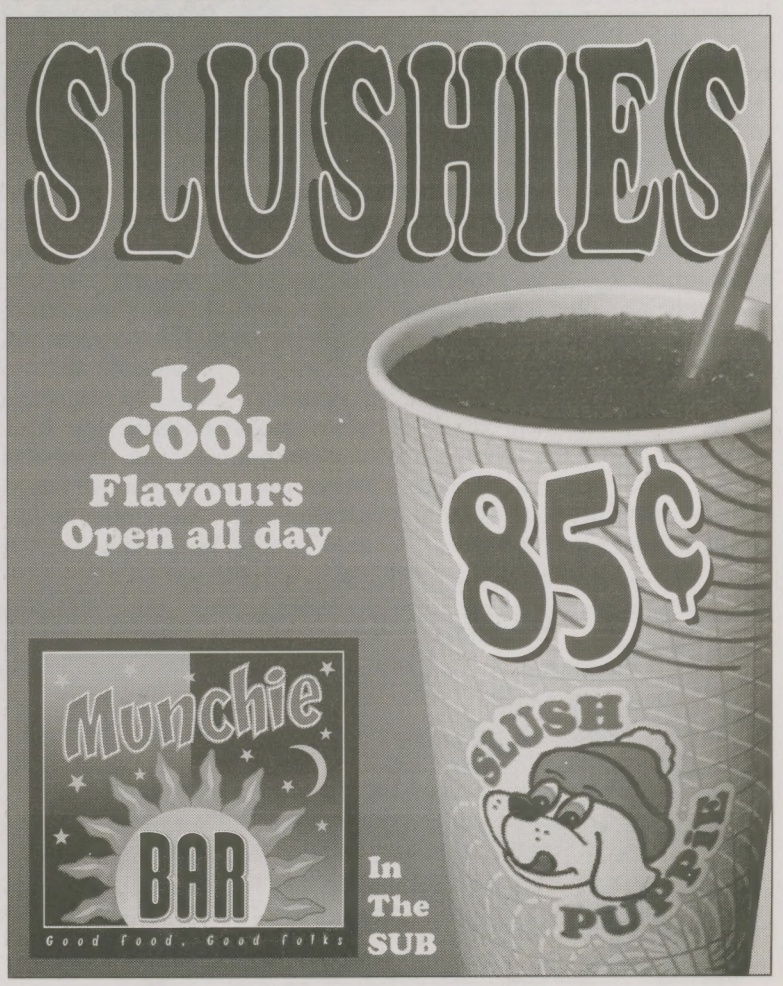
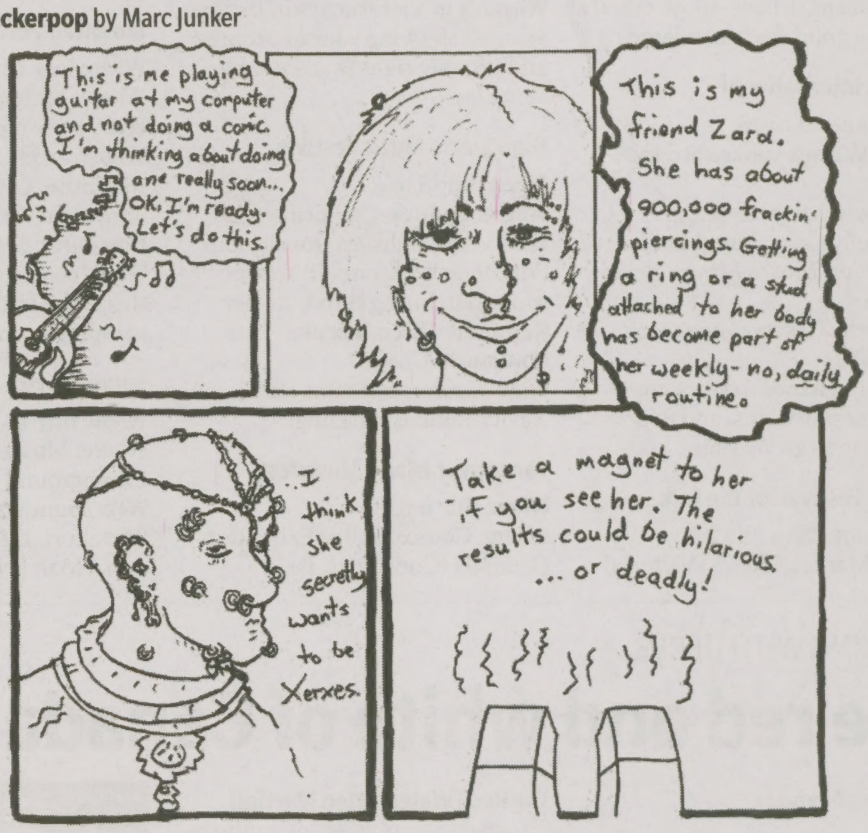


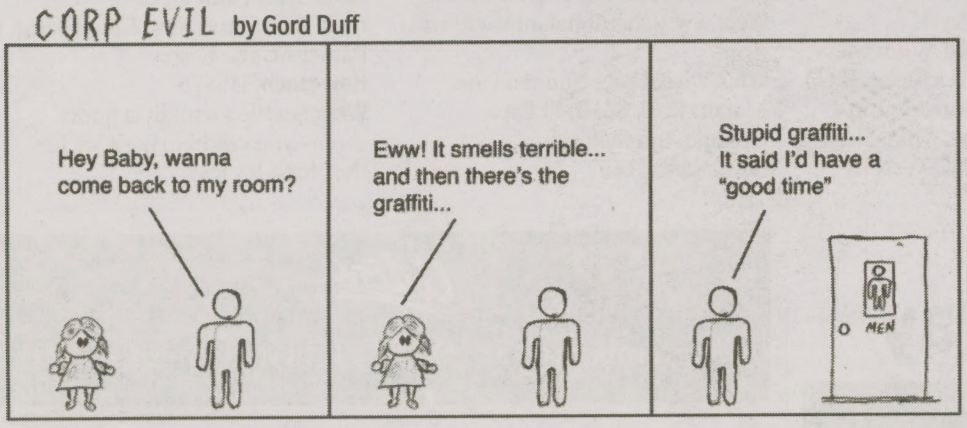
MeiCom

Lily & Jellybean by Caitlin Rassenti

Checkerpop by Marc Junker


This is me playing guitar at my computer and not doing a comic. I'm thinking about doing one really soon... OK, I'm ready. Let's do this.
This is my friend Zara. She has about 900,000 frackin' piercings. Getting a ring or a stud attached to her body has become part of her weekly- no, daily routine.
...I think she secretly wants to be Xerxes.
Take a magnet to her if you see her. The results could be hilarious ... or deadly!

CORP EVIL by Gord Duff


Hey Baby, wanna come back to my room?
Eww! It smells terrible... and then there's the graffiti...
Stupid graffiti... It said I'd have a "good time"
MEN

Sports sport@martlet.ca

Under-20 World Cup comes to Victoria

by Gavin Day

This year Canada Day will have a little more international flavour than usual, thanks to our country hosting the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

This tournament for the top teenagers is the second largest international soccer tournament after the World Cup. The action will hit Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal from June 30 to July 22. The opening game will be held at the new BMO Field in Toronto and Edmonton will host the final.

Victoria will host Group F, which boasts the runner-up from the last U-20 tournament, Nigeria. European runner-up Scotland and Asian power Japan will be looking to stop Nigeria in its tracks. Costa Rica, one of the strongest teams in Central America, rounds out the group. A July 7 round-robin game between Uruguay and Zambia and a first-round knockout game will also be held in Victoria. All the Victoria matches will take place at Royal Athletic Park.

Temporary stands are being put up for the tournament to hold 14,000 people. When those seats are full, it will be a roaring, singing, stomping madhouse. Our little city is in for a great party.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SMS GROUP LTD.

Scotland will be counting on Hibernian star Steven Fletcher to carry the team beyond the group stage.

Nigeria

Two years ago in the Netherlands, Nigeria lost to Argentina in the U-20 finals by a score of 2-1. Nigeria's star from that tournament was John Obi Mikel, who has since moved on to play in the English Premier League with London power Chelsea. The country's new young star is striker Emmanuel Sarki, who has also trained with Chelsea.

But Nigeria does not seem to have the same strength they are accustomed to. Although they were second to the Congo in the African Youth Championships, the team did not overpower other teams as they have done in previous competitions.

Nigeria does have the added motivation of completing the job they very nearly finished two years ago. That fire could turn them into a very tough team to beat.

Scotland

Victoria's Scottish community will be out in full force to support the Tartan Army, as the team looks to build on a strong showing at the U-19 European tournament last year where they finished a surprising second to Spain.

In their 2-1 victory over Canada in March, Scotland impressed with their toughness and size. The team features players from Scottish Premier League side Hibernian, including Steven Fletcher and Andy McNeil. The chemistry among the club-mates could prove valuable.

Japan

Japan is making their seventh consecutive appearance at this tournament. They qualified after finishing second to North Korea at the Asian Youth Championships. Much like the Scots, the Japanese team should have something of a home-field advantage with the strong local Japanese community.

Many of Japan's players see regular top-flight action with J-League teams, which could give the team experience and maturity that other teams may lack.

J-League coaching legend Yasushi Yoshida will be leading the team into the tournament. His ability to discover talent cannot be overlooked as he has helped launch the careers of many current senior national team members, including Shunsuke Nakamura and Shinji Ono.

Costa Rica

The Ticos of Costa Rica will bring the Latin-American flair to Victoria this summer. Having missed the last two U-20 tournaments, this team looks to make up for lost time.

Their biggest problem has been a revolving door of coaches. Manager Geovanny Alfaro has brought some stability to this program and can boast strengths on both ends of the field. Alfonso Quesada is one of the strongest goalkeepers in the tournament and Jean Carlos Solorzano is a lightning-quick striker with a cracker of a long-range shot. The strong attacking topped off with Latin-American style could make the Ticos fan favourites during their stop in Victoria.